

REF-A-2294

Chief of Mission, Bernburg

(Attention:)

Chief, Berlin Operations Base

INFO: RE, FOE

Operational/CAIZ

Ludwig
Professor WESCH (Fam),
possible ZIPPER Agent

1. Set out below in a report prepared by ☐ on the basis of a recent contact with ☐

a. Professor WESCH (Fam), Heidelberg, during the Hitler regime, was a strong Nazi with very good relations to the SD service in Heidelberg. At the same time he was the head of the Institut fuer Weltpost-und Fernschriebswesen (Institute for World Postal and World Communications Technology) which Reich Post Minister Gieseler had founded. This institute was located in the Burgius villa in Heidelberg which was later taken over by CIC. Two days after the Americans arrived in Heidelberg, WESCH, who was a Protestant, changed over to Catholicism. Later he became a member of the CDU. The result of his denazification proceedings classified him as a Class 2 Nazi. He left Heidelberg and went to the Saar Territory where the French gave him permission to head and partly own a factory producing luminous matter. This factory turned out to be a commercial failure, and WESCH returned to Heidelberg in the fall of 1953. After CIC released the Burgius villa, WESCH succeeded in convincing some higher levels in the Postal Ministry of the Federal Republic to re-establish the former institute in the same villa under WESCH's direction. This plan, however, met with the resistance of younger employees in the postal circles who charged WESCH with his Nazi past, and the plan was subsequently dropped. It became known a little later that WESCH had intentions of joining the Blank Office in Bern. It is not known whether the Blank Office actually intended to accept him or whether these were only plans which WESCH cultivated on his own. In any event it seems that nothing came of these plans. Around November 1954 a notice appeared in the Heidelberg press in which it was said that a Deutsche Magnat Gesellschaft (this name is not quite certain; it might be slightly different) with its seat in Munich, had bought the former Reuch villa and estate in Heidelberg near Heidelberg Castle and that a research institute under WESCH's direction was soon to be established in this villa. Heidelberg technicians interested in WESCH's career undertook to make an investigation concerning this firm in Munich, and found out that the firm was largely unknown in Munich. The Munich telephone book, however, listed the firm with its offices in Kaufingerstrasse.

18 May 1955

Distribution:

3 - COM

2 - RE (thru COM)

4 - FOE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHUEN EXEMPTION 25X
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

RI COPY

EXEMPT
(2)(A) P
(2)(B) M
(2)(G) F

b. It is generally believed in Heidelberg scientific and technical circles -- the latter mainly being circles of actual technicians -- that WEISS was an agent of ZEPPELIN, and that this organization has provided the funds for the purchase of the Beach villa. It is also believed that the above mentioned firm is to be a cover for WEISS's intelligence activities for the named organization.

2. Addressees are requested to furnish any information which they have concerning this matter, together with any pertinent comments, as well as advise as to whether it is desired that an attempt be developed additional information concerning WEISS and his possible cover or intelligence organization. The comments of addressees would be particularly appreciated as to the possible LAUSCHEL implications in the above information.